Official definition of minorities

†1781. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any official definition of minority;

(b) whether there is any State-wise list thereof and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cases of recognition of minorities are pending in courts;

(d) whether Parsis have ever requested for recognition; and

(e) whether there are some special minorities amongst the said minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) (b) and (d) Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, defines *"minority"*, as:

' "Minority" *for the purposes of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government.'*

Accordingly, the Central Government has notified five religious communities, *viz.*, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) as minority communities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Programmes for minorities

1782. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken to implement Prime Minister's 15 point programme for minorities; and

(b) whether there is a programme to improve the housing condition of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. The programme provides for earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays for minorities under schemes included in the programme and considered amenable to such earmarking. The programme is available on the website of the Ministry at *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.* The programme, *inter-alia* includes the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), both of which have earmarking of targets for minorities.

Programmes for welfare of minorities in Goa

1783. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in which Prime Minister's new 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is implemented;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the programme is implemented in Goa also;

(c) if so, the financial assistance given and activities undertaken by the State Government or Non-Governmental Organization, under the programme; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities is implemented throughout the country, including Goa.

(c) The schemes included in the New 15-Point Programme are Centrally sponsored schemes which are operated by the Central Ministries/Departments concerned. The programme provides for earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays under schemes included in the programme and considered amenable to earmarking. The details of the schemes are available on the website of the Ministry at *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in*. Financial assistance is provided to States/UTs as per the guidelines of the concerned scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

Inclusion of minority dominated districts of Rajasthan in welfare schemes

1784. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the welfare of minorities ninety minority-dominated districts in the country have been selected but none from Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the criteria of their selection;

(c) wehther Rajasthan State Commission for minorities has recommended for inclusion of two districts, Jaisalmer and Sriganganagar, on the basis of population, social/economic backwardness; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Minority concentration districts have been identified on the basis of both concentration of minority population and the relative backwardness of the districts *vis-a-vis* the national average in respect of socio-economic and basic amenities paramters.

Sriganganagar qualifies in terms of population but the indices of its socio-economic and basic amenities parameters are above the national average. As far as Jaisalmer district is concerned, it does not qualify in terms of the population criteria.

The Chairman, Rajasthan State Commission for Minorities has been informed suitably.

New and renewable energy generation in Punjab

1785. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of energy produced in Punjab through new and renewable energy sources during the last three years ending the 31st December, 2007, year-wise; and